



News Release

For Immediate Release:
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Men Urged to Find Out About Prostate Cancer Screening

National Men's Health Week is June 13-18

(Salt Lake City, UT) – In conjunction with National Men's Health Week, June 13-18 (as well as Father's Day on June 19), the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN) are raising awareness about prostate cancer by encouraging men 40 years and older to talk to their doctors about screening options.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men. It typically strikes with no symptoms – and will kill more than 30,000 men in 2005. There will be more than 232,000 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States this year alone, according to the American Cancer Society.

“It is estimated that one in six American men will develop prostate cancer in the course of a lifetime,” said Jan Heins, UCAN Coordinator, UDOH.

UCAN recently began a new public service campaign that provides a candid take on this sensitive topic – one that many men may choose to avoid. The campaign urges men to talk to their doctors, call the UDOH's Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2545 or visit UCAN's website at www.ucan.cc for additional information.

According to Heins, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) recently asked 410 men aged 40 – 65 years if they had ever had a Prostate-Specific Antigen test (PSA), a blood test used to check men for prostate cancer. Four out of 10 men surveyed have never had a PSA test. Of these men who had never had a PSA test, only 14 percent said they had talked to their doctor about the test.

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“Research has shown that many men know very little about their prostate, which is one reason it is so important they call the Health Resource Line or talk to their physician about prostate cancer and screening options,” said Heins.

Working in conjunction with numerous organizations and related medical services, screening and support programs, UCAN's mission is to reduce cancer incidence and prevent cancer when possible for all Utahns.

Editors Note:

Broadcast: Spot dubs are available from Aaron Evans or Kelli Fratto Bland at 519-8880.

Print: Still shots of print ads are available from Aaron Evans or Kelli Fratto Bland at 519-8880.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.